

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The status of the claims after amendment will be as follows.

1. (currently amended) A hand-held molten metal pouring apparatus for use in hand casting of a molten metal mixture into a mold, the apparatus comprising a portable reservoir capable of holding a molten metal, the reservoir including a pouring spout formed on a side wall of the reservoir and a lid which can be selectively opened and closed to permit a molten metal and metal particles to be charged into the reservoir to form a molten metal mixture, an elongated handle extending transversely from the side wall of the reservoir in a location spaced from the pouring spout whereby a worker can pour the molten metal mixture from the reservoir into a mold thorough the pouring spout while grasping the handle, a stirrer disposed in the reservoir, and a rotational drive mechanism drivingly connected to the stirrer.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A molten metal pouring apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the rotational drive mechanism comprises an air motor having an exhaust port communicating with the interior of the reservoir to supply gas which is exhausted

from the air motor to the interior of the reservoir to form a gas atmosphere in an upper portion of the reservoir.

5. (currently amended) A molten metal pouring apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 1 including~~ comprising a reservoir capable of holding a molten metal, a stirrer disposed in the reservoir, a rotational drive mechanism comprising an air motor drivingly connected to the stirrer, and a gas supply line connected to an exhaust port of the air motor and communicating with the interior of the reservoir.

6. (original) A molten metal pouring apparatus as claimed in claim 5 including an inactive gas supply connected to an inlet of the air motor.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A method of casting a solder product with dispersed metal particles using the molten metal pouring apparatus of claim 1 comprising placing molten solder into a the reservoir of the molten metal pouring apparatus, adding high melting point metal particles to the molten solder in the reservoir, stirring the molten solder and the metal particles to uniformly disperse the metal particles in the molten solder with the stirrer, and then casting the molten solder and metal particles directly from the reservoir into a mold through the pouring spout.

## Claim 9 (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the drive mechanism comprises an air motor, the method including supplying ~~an inactive~~ a gas to an inlet of ~~an~~ the air motor ~~drivingly connected to a stirrer disposed in the reservoir~~ to stir the molten solder and metal particles, and supplying ~~inactive~~ gas discharged from an exhaust port of the air motor to the interior of the reservoir.

11. (new) A method as claimed in claim 10 including supplying inactive gas to the inlet of the air motor, whereby the gas discharged from the exhaust port forms an inactive gas atmosphere within the reservoir above the molten solder.

12. (new) A molten metal pouring apparatus as claimed in claim 4 including a gas supply line extending along the handle to an air inlet of the air motor, and a valve disposed on the handle in a position in which it can be operated by a worker holding the handle and connected to the gas supply line leading to the air inlet to control flow of gas through the gas supply line to the air motor.

13. (new) A molten metal pouring apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reservoir includes a cover plate secured to an upper end of the side wall of the reservoir adjoining the lid, and the drive mechanism has a drive shaft extending through an

opening in the cover plate to the stirrer, the cover plate and the lid together defining an upper surface of the reservoir.